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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

23694 7590 01/28/2004

J. NICHOLAS GROSS, ATTORNEY AT LAW
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SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94117

EXAMINER

PAULA, CESAR B

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2178

DATE MAILED: 01/28/2004

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/014,414	01/27/1998	JOHN N. GROSS	JNG-98001	4479

TITLE OF INVENTION: WORD CHECKING TOOL FOR CONTROLLING THE LANGUAGE CONTENT IN DOCUMENTS USING DICTIONARIES WITH MODIFYABLE STATUS FIELDS

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE	PUBLICATION FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	YES	\$665	\$0	\$665	04/28/2004

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. **PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED.** THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN **THREE MONTHS** FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. **THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.** SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE REFLECTS A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE APPLIED IN THIS APPLICATION. THE PTOL-85B (OR AN EQUIVALENT) MUST BE RETURNED WITHIN THIS PERIOD EVEN IF NO FEE IS DUE OR THE APPLICATION WILL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

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B. If the status is changed, pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above and notify the United States Patent and Trademark Office of the change in status, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

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B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check the box below and enclose the PUBLICATION FEE and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

☐ Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status.
See 37 CFR 1.27.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL should be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Even if the fee(s) have already been paid, Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and returned. If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

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Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: **Mail**

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CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Legibly mark-up with any corrections or use Block 1)

23694 7590 01/28/2004

**J. NICHOLAS GROSS, ATTORNEY AT LAW
726 DUBOCE AVE.
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94117**

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I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/014,414	01/27/1998	JOHN N. GROSS	JNG-98001	4479

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nonprovisional	YES	\$665	\$0	\$665	04/28/2004

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
PAULA, CESAR B	2178	707-533000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

- ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
- ☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.

1	_____
2	_____
3	_____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. Inclusion of assignee data is only appropriate when an assignment has been previously submitted to the USPTO or is being submitted under separate cover. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent); ☐ individual ☐ corporation or other private group entity ☐ government

4a. The following fee(s) are enclosed:

- ☐ Issue Fee
- ☐ Publication Fee
- ☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s):

- ☐ A check in the amount of the fee(s) is enclosed.
- ☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
- ☐ The Director is hereby authorized by charge the required fee(s), or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

Director for Patents is requested to apply the Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if any) or to re-apply any previously paid issue fee to the application identified above.

(Authorized Signature)

(Date)

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.**

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09/014,414	01/27/1998	JOHN N. GROSS	JNG-98001	4479
23694	7590	01/28/2004		
J. NICHOLAS GROSS, ATTORNEY AT LAW 726 DUBOCE AVE. SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94117			EXAMINER PAULA, CESAR B	
			ART UNIT 2178	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 01/28/2004

Determination of Patent Term Extension under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b)

(application filed after June 7, 1995 but prior to May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Extension is 0 day(s). Any patent to issue from the above-identified application will include an indication of the 0 day extension on the front page.

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Extension is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (703) 305-1383. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at (703) 305-8283.

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/014,414

Examiner

CESAR B PAULA

Applicant(s)

GROSS ET AL.

Art Unit

2178

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to response to restriction requirement filed on 11/3/03.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 208-211, 213-215, 217-251, 252-282, 285-297 renumbered as 1-4, 6-8, 10-44, 46-90.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 27 January 1998 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.
5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
 - (a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
 - (c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the margin according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____ |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No. _____ | 7 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | 8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT/REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The title has been amended as follows:

Please replace the entire title with the following: "WORD CHECKING TOOL FOR CONTROLLING THE LANGUAGE CONTENT IN DOCUMENTS USING DICTIONARIES WITH MODIFYABLE STATUS FIELDS".

2. The claims have been renumbered starting with claim 205, because the last claim submitted in the amendment filed on 4/17/2001, was 204, and not 207 as previously thought.
3. Authorization for the following examiner's amendment was given in a telephonic conversation with J. Nicholas Gross, Reg.# 34,175 on 1/23/2004:
4. PLEASE DELETE THE FOLLOWING CLAIMS:
209 (Old claim 212), 213 (Old claim 216), 249 (Old claim 252), and 280-281 (Old claims 283 284).

[208.] 205. (Twice Amended) An article of manufacture comprising:

an electronic dictionary including a set of words and a plurality of associated status fields

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for said set of words, each status field identifying an appropriateness rating for a corresponding audience for individual words in said set of words, such that an individual word can have a plurality of corresponding appropriateness ratings;

I1 a word checking routine executable by a computing device and for checking whether words in text of an unpublished electronic document should be included in a communication to a particular audience, and which routine is configured to perform the following operations:

(a) retrieving a word to be word checked from an electronic file containing said text of said unpublished electronic document:, and

(b) accessing the electronic dictionary to determine whether an appropriateness rating of said word identified in a status field for said particular audience exceeds a threshold value specified for such unpublished electronic document; and

(c) controlling an initial dissemination of such unpublished electronic document based on checking said word;

(d) repeating steps (a) through (c) with said word checking routine for other unpublished electronic documents in accordance with said plurality of associated status fields to analyze text intended for other corresponding audiences on a document by document basis; wherein the electronic dictionary and word checking routine are embodied in a computer readable media; [.]

wherein said word checking routine is also configured to permit a user of such routine to change said appropriateness rating value of a status field for words in said electronic dictionary.

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[215.] 212. (Twice Amended) A system for permitting a user to check the meaning of words in an electronic document, said system including:

a computer readable storage structure for storing a word checking software module, such module being incorporated as part of a word processing program that can be executed by a computer processing device;

wherein the word checking software module is configured such that when it is executed by the computer processing device it can perform the following operations:

- (i) retrieving said words to be checked from an electronic file for the electronic document
- (ii) determining whether any particular word is inadvertently included and has a particular meaning that has been designated as potentially inappropriate use in said document, based on the identity of an intended recipient; and
- (iii) alerting a user to the presence of said particular word when it is designated as potentially inappropriate
- (iv) allowing a user to modify said particular word in said document when it is designated as potentially inappropriate before transmitting said document to a third party; and
- (v) allowing a user of said word checking software module to specify a threshold level of sensitivity to be used in determining whether a word in the electronic document is potentially inappropriate;[.]

further including an electronic dictionary for storing said words, and wherein said word checking software module designates words that have a meaning that is potentially inappropriate

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by changing said rating value in a status field for such words and/or by storing potentially inappropriate words in one or more separate dictionaries.

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[217.] ⁸~~214~~. (Amended) The system of claim [216] ⁷~~212~~ wherein said status field for for each of said words can have one of N rating values, where $N > 2$.

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[227.] ²³⁸~~224~~. (Twice Amended) A system for checking the word content of an unpublished electronic document, the system including:
a computer readable storage structure for storing a word checking software module that can be executed by a computer processing device;
an electronic dictionary for storing dictionary words that can be used in the electronic document, said electronic dictionary being set up such that one or more status fields can be associated with such dictionary words, said status fields containing a rating for an offensiveness and/or inappropriateness of such dictionary word for a corresponding audience; wherein the word checking software module is configured such that when it is executed by the computer processing device it can perform the following operations:

- (i) selecting one or more language filters including at least one non-English language filter by changing a value of said one or more status fields for said electronic dictionary words for checking words in an electronic file for the document;
 - (ii) using said one or more language filters to check words in said electronic file against corresponding dictionary words by examining said rating in said
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status field(s);

- (iii) generating an alert when said one or more language filters detects a word that has a corresponding audience;

wherein publication of electronic documents can be controlled on an individual electronic document basis so that when disseminated an electronic document only includes words that do not have a rating that indicates that such word is offensive and/or inappropriate for a corresponding audience.

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[229.] ²⁰~~226~~. (Amended) The system of claim [228] ¹⁹~~225~~ wherein a rating in all of said status fields for a dictionary word [are] is examined.

[241.] ³²~~238~~. (Twice Amended) A method of checking the meaning of a word in an electronic document, which electronic document has not been published the method comprising the steps of:

providing one or more electronic dictionaries, including a first dictionary file to be used for electronic documents sent to a first audience, and. a second dictionary file to be used for electronic documents sent to a second audience;

retrieving the word to be checked from an electronic file for the document, wherein the word has a first meaning in a first context identified as a first rating in said first dictionary file and a second meaning in a second context identified as a second rating in said second dictionary file;

using a set of filter words from said one or more electronic dictionaries to check said

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word, said set of filter words being based in part on considering an identity of an intended recipient of said electronic document and such that either or both of said first dictionary file and said second dictionary file are used for said set of filter words;

determining whether said word has a particular meaning that is (1) designated as offensive in said set of filter words; and/or (2) is designated as potentially inappropriate for communication to said intended recipient in either of the first or second contexts by examining said first and second ratings in said set of filter words;

wherein the electronic document is checked so as to control initial distribution of such electronic document to said intended recipient; further wherein said set of filter words [can be] are changed for a subsequent electronic document to be distributed to a different intended recipient by changing a value of a status field for words in said electronic dictionaries.

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[251.] ⁴²~~248.~~ (Twice Amended) A method of permitting an author of an electronic document to

simultaneously check both the spelling and meaning of words in such document comprising the steps of:

- (a) retrieving a word to be spell checked and word checked from an electronic
- (b) determining whether said word has been spelled correctly; and
- (c) when said word has been spelled incorrectly, presenting a first list of
- (d) designating those words that have a meaning that is offensive and/or
the author based on an identity of a recipient of the document;
- (e) when said word has been designated as offensive and/or potentially

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(f) permitting an author to change the value of a status flag for such word to change said designation.

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[253.] ~~250.~~ (Two Times Amended) A method of word checking an electronic document generated by a word processing program under control of a user of said program, said method comprising the steps of:

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(a) storing word-checking status information for said document, including a table identifying offensive and/or potentially inappropriate words used in an electronic file for said document;

(b) monitoring interaction between said user and said word processing program to identify idle editing periods;

(c) locating offensive and/or potentially inappropriate words in said electronic file for said document during the idle editing periods, and updating the word checking status information in response thereto as needed; and

(d) modifying a word filter electronic dictionary containing said offensive and/or potentially inappropriate words based on input from the user by changing a value of a status field for words in electronic dictionaries, so that the user can control which words in said document are to be identified in said table; and

(e) permitting a user to specify a rating threshold which must be exceeded in order for said word to be identified as offensive and/or potentially inappropriate.

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[254.] ~~251.~~ (Twice Amended) A method of automatically word checking an electronic document

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as it is generated by an author of the electronic document and before such electronic document is published, comprising the steps of:

(a) allowing the author to specify one or more word filter dictionaries to be used for filtering text content of the document by changing a value of a status field for words in the word filter dictionaries, where at least one of said one or more word filter dictionaries is selected based on, an intended audience for the electronic document; and

41 (b) permitting the author to specify a rating threshold which must be exceeded in order for said text content to be identified as potentially inappropriate;

(c) monitoring data input by the author during a data input period that is intended to be included as a word in said document; and

(d) determining whether the word is offensive and/or potentially inappropriate for use in said document by comparing the word against words contained in said one or more word filter dictionaries; and

(e) when the word is determined to be offensive and/or potentially inappropriate, alerting the author; and

wherein a result of said word checking is communicated to the author while the author is still entering said text content of the document so that the electronic document is checked before it is disseminated to said intended audience and so as to control initial distribution of such electronic document.

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[259.] 256. (Twice Amended) A method of automatically word checking an electronic document as it is generated by an author and before such electronic document is published to an

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intended recipient, comprising the steps of :

(a) allowing the author to specify one or more word filter dictionaries to be used for filtering text content of the document by changing a value of a status field for words in said word filter dictionaries, where at least one of said one or more word filter dictionaries is selected based on an intended audience for the electronic document; and

II (b) monitoring data input by the author during a data input period that is intended to be included as a word in said document, wherein said word has a first meaning in a first context identified as a first rating in a first dictionary file from said one or more word filter dictionaries, and a second meaning in a second context identified as a second rating in a second dictionary file from said one or more word filter dictionaries; and

(c) determining whether the word is offensive and/or potentially inappropriate for use in said document by comparing the word against: words contained in said one or more word filter dictionaries, including said first dictionary file and said second dictionary file such that said word is analyzed in both the first and second contexts by examining said first and second ratings; and

(d) when the word is determined to be offensive and/or potentially inappropriate, alerting the author; and

wherein a result of said word checking is communicated to the author while the author is still entering said text content of the document so that: the electronic document is checked before it is disseminated to the intended recipient and so as to control initial distribution of such electronic document.

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[271.] ~~268.~~ (Twice Amended) An electronic system for permitting a user to control which words are allowed in an electronic document before the electronic document is published, said system including: a system memory for storing a word checking software module;

a processing device for executing the word checking software module;

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an electronic dictionary for identifying a set of filter words to be filtered from the electronic documents by changing a value of a status field for words in said electronic dictionary, said set of filter words including both offensive words and/or potentially inappropriate words, and which potentially inappropriate words are determined by considering an identity of an audience intended to receive the electronic document, and such that said word has a first meaning in a first context identified as a first rating in a first dictionary file forming part of said electronic dictionary, and a second meaning in a second context identified as a second rating in a second dictionary file forming part of said electronic dictionary; and

wherein the word checking software module is configured such that it can perform the following operations:

- (i) retrieving words to be checked from an electronic file for the document; and
- (ii) determining whether said words from the document include any from said set of filter words, including by examining said first and second ratings to determine whether said word has a particular meaning that has been designated as potentially inappropriate for use in either of the first or second contexts; and
- (iii) controlling initial distribution of such electronic document based on steps (i) and (ii);

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- (iv) repeating steps (i) through (iii) for a different electronic document using a different set of filter words.

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[272.] ~~269~~ (Twice Amended) A method of checking the meaning of a word in an electronic document comprising the steps of:

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- (a) retrieving a word to be checked from an electronic file for the document; and
 - (b) determining with a first electronic language filter whether said word has a particular meaning that is likely to be offensive to persons intended to read such document; and
 - (c) determining with a second electronic language filter whether said word is potentially inappropriate for use in communications to said persons, based in part on considering an identity of said persons; and
 - (d) configuring said first and second language filters by setting up said language filters in one or more wherein said first and second language filters can be changed on a document by document basis depending on an intended audience for the document.

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[279.] ~~276~~ (Twice Amended) A method of checking content of an unpublished electronic document comprising the steps of:

- (a) specifying a language filter to be used for inspecting words of an electronic file for the electronic document to determine if it contains potentially inappropriate content by changing a value of a status field for words in electronic dictionaries, said language filter being based in part on an identity of an intended recipient of the electronic document and including at least a set of English words and a separate set of non-English words as part of said potentially inappropriate

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content; and

(b) specifying a language sensitivity threshold level to be used when evaluating the electronic document, such that a rating value for each word in the electronic document is compared against said language sensitivity threshold level to determine if such word should be identified as potentially inappropriate; and

(c) providing an output indicating when said language sensitivity threshold is exceeded based on words in the electronic document so as to control initial distribution of such electronic document to said intended recipient.

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[282.] 279. **(Twice Amended)** A system for checking content of an unpublished electronic document comprising:

a computer readable storage structure for storing a word checking software module that can be executed by a computer processing device; and

a language filter, which language filter is adjustable for each document and which is associated with a set of words that are potentially inappropriate for use with a corresponding recipient of the electronic document; and

wherein the word checking software module is configured such that when it is executed by the computer processing device it can perform the following operations:

- (i) specifying said language filter for checking the electronic document;
- (ii) specifying a language sensitivity threshold level to be used when evaluating the electronic document;
- (iii) providing an output indicating when said language sensitivity threshold

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is exceeded based on words in an electronic file for the electronic document
so as to control initial distribution of such electronic document to said
intended recipient;

wherein a rating value, for each word in the electronic document is compared
against said language sensitivity threshold level to determine if such word should be
identified as potentially inappropriate

wherein said rating value and said language sensitivity threshold level are adjustable;

wherein said rating value is specified as a status field value in an electronic
dictionary used as part of said language filter.

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[285.] 282. (Twice Amended) A method of controlling distribution of an electronic
document to prevent dissemination of embarrassing and/or harmful content in such
electronic document, the method comprising the steps of:

a) identifying offensive words that should not be included in an electronic document: to
be distributed to an intended third party recipient; and

b) identifying potentially inappropriate words that should not be included in an electronic
document to be distributed to said intended third party recipient, said potentially inappropriate
words being based in part on a consideration of an identity of said intended third party recipient;
and

c) inspecting an electronic file for the document before it is distributed to said
intended third party recipient to see if it contains any of said offensive and/or potentially

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inappropriate words, so that a corrective action can be taken to eliminate said offensive and/or potentially inappropriate words and/or to prevent distribution of the document;

wherein a status field rating for said offensive words and said potentially inappropriate words are [set up] changed by an author of the electronic document as part of an electronic language filter.

⁷⁸
~~73~~
[290.] ~~287.~~ (Twice Amended) A system for checking content of an electronic document, which electronic document has not been published, the system including:

a computer readable storage structure for storing a word checking software module that can be executed by a computer processing device;

a configurable language filter, which language filter contains words to be used for checking the content of the electronic document:

wherein the word checking software module is configured such that when it is executed by the computer processing device it can perform the following operations:

- (i) configuring said configurable language filter based in part on an identity of an intended recipient of the electronic document by changing a value of a language filter status field for words in an electronic dictionary file;

wherein said configurable language filter includes a first language filter and a second language filter as part of an electronic dictionary file, and said first language filter is identified by a first value specified in a first status field in said electronic dictionary file, and said second language filter is identified by a second value specified in a second status field in said electronic dictionary file;

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(ii) using said configurable language filter to check words used in an electronic file for the document;

(iii) generating an alert when said configurable language filter is triggered;

wherein initial dissemination of the electronic document can be controlled based on whether the content is appropriate for an intended audience of such electronic document.

⁸⁰
~~289~~ [292.] **(Twice Amended)** A system for checking content of an electronic document including:

a computer readable storage structure for storing a word checking software module that can be executed by a computer processing device;

a language filter consisting of a first language filter and a second language filter, said first language filter being associated with words that are potentially inappropriate for use in connection with a first group of persons, and said second language filter being associated with words that are potentially inappropriate for use in connection with a second group of persons;

wherein said first language filter and second language filter are part of an electronic dictionary file, and said first language filter is identified by a first set of words in said electronic dictionary file, and said second language filter is identified by a second set of words in said electronic dictionary file;

wherein the word checking software module is configured such that when it is executed by the computer processing device it can perform the following operations:

(i) selecting either or both of said first and second language filters for

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checking words in the document based in part on an identity of an intended recipient of the electronic document by changing a value of status fields for words in said first and second language filters in said electronic dictionary file;

(ii) using either or both of said first and/or second language filters to check words used in an electronic file for the document;

(iii) generating an indicator when either or both of said first and/or second language filters is triggered;

wherein dissemination of the electronic document can be controlled based on whether words contained therein are appropriate for an intended audience.

⁸²
⁸⁷
[294.] 291. (Twice Amended) A method of checking content of electronic documents comprising the steps of:

- (a) retrieving a word from an electronic file for a first electronic document; and
- (b) inspecting said word with a language filter selected for the first electronic document, said language filter consisting of either or both of a first language filter and/or a second language filter, said first language filter being associated with words that are potentially inappropriate for use in connection with a first group of persons, and said second language filter being associated with words that are potentially inappropriate for use in connection with a second group of persons; and
- (c) identifying whether said word falls within said first language filter and/or said second language filter by changing a value of status fields for words in

said first and second language filters, based in part on an identity of the first and/or second group of persons; and

(d) repeating steps (a) through (c) for said first electronic document until all words in said electronic file for said first electronic document are inspected; and

(e) repeating steps (a) through (d) for a second electronic document, wherein a language filter selected for the second electronic document can be varied from that used for said first electronic document;

wherein said first language filter and second language filter are part of an electronic dictionary file, and said first language filter is identified by a first in said electronic dictionary file, and said second language filter is identified by a second set of words in said electronic dictionary file.

84

[296.] ⁸⁴~~293~~. (Twice Amended) A system for checking content of electronic documents including: a computer readable storage structure for storing a word checking software module that can be executed by a computer processing device;

a language filter comprised of a first language filter and a second language filter, said first language filter being associated with words that are potentially inappropriate for use in connection with a first group of persons, and said second language filter being associated with words that are potentially inappropriate for use in connection with a second group of persons;

wherein the word checking software module is configured such that when it is executed

by the computer processing device it can perform the following operations:

- (i) selecting either or both of said first and second language filters as said language filter for checking content of electronic files containing data for said electronic documents such that said first language filter can be used when said electronic document is a first type of document to be disseminated to said first group of persons, while said second language filter can be used when said electronic document is a second type of document to be disseminated to said second group of persons;
- (ii) using said language filter to check words used in said electronic files containing data for said electronic documents;
- (iii) generating an alert when said language filter is triggered;

wherein dissemination of said electronic documents, including both said first type of documents and said second type of documents, can be controlled based on whether the content therein is appropriate for an intended audience, including said first and second groups of persons;

and further wherein said first language filter and second language filter are part of an electronic dictionary file, and said first language filter is identified by changing a first value specified in a first status field in said electronic dictionary file, and said second language filter is identified by changing a second value specified in a second status field in said electronic dictionary file based on an identity of the first and second group of persons.

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Reasons for Allowance

6. Regarding independent claims 205, 212, 221, 225, 231, 238, 242, 251, 256-257, 268-269, 276, 279, 282, 285, 287, 289, 291, and 293, Bradshaw teaches the screening out of objectionable words found in a library or dictionary (col. 3, lines 10-67, col. 4, lines 1-28, and col.6 , lines 50-67). While, Duffy teaches a library having field with adjustable ratings, which allow a user to rate documents (col.3, lines 35-67, col. 6, lines 51-67, fig. 3), Duffy does not teach or suggest a word checking routine allowing a user to change a status field based on the identity--language, location, ethnicity, etc-- of the persons, recipient, audience that are to receive the document.

Furthermore, the subject matter discussed in the claims above are not shown nor would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made in the prior art cited.

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Conclusion

I. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Richardson et al. (Pat. # 5,999,896), Ishikawa (Pat. # 5,812,863), Golding et al. (Pat. # 5,956,739), and Schrader, A., "In Search of the Perfect Filter: Indexing Theory Implication for Internet Blocking and Rating Software, School of Library and Information Studies University of Alberta, http://www.ualberta.ca/~aschrade/nl_cen2.htm, 6/1998.

II. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cesar B. Paula whose telephone number is (703) 306-5543. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon, can be reached on (703) 308-5186. However, in such a case, please allow at least one business day.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Any response to this Action should be mailed to:

Director United States Patent and Trademark Office

Washington, D.C. 20231

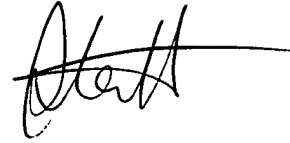
Or faxed to:

- (703) 703-872-9306, (for all Formal communications intended for entry)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Hong', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

STEPHEN S. HONG
PRIMARY EXAMINER

CBP

1/24/04